



Wind pattern off the coast of northwest Spain, December 9, 2002, calculated from the radar data displayed in the corresponding radar image on the previous page. Wind knowledge is important in estimating the drift of the oil, and it allows a more efficient analysis of the radar images. Oil discharges are normally most visible if the wind speed is between 5 and 25 knots. (Data from the SAR instrument on the ENVISAT satellite, with data processing by Boost Technologies-France; copyright Boost Technologies 2004.)